



## OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

September 25, 2015

**STAFF REPORT:** Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA  
**STAFF:** Dan Canfield, Planning Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA Management Update

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### Summary

In December 2014, California State Parks, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division acquired 50 privately-owned parcels (approximately 25,000 acres) in eastern Kern County, California, from ReNu Resources, LLC. The Eastern Kern County Acquisition lands are due west of Red Rock Canyon State Park and are interspersed in checkerboard fashion amongst land owned primarily by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (see Attachment 1).

The acquisition was approved by California's Public Works Board at their November 14, 2014, meeting as the Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA). The acquired lands are classified by California State Parks as SVRA lands. The SVRA lands are being managed by the OHMVR Division San Andreas District in cooperation with the BLM, Ridgecrest Field Office.

This report provides an update on management actions.

### Discussion

On October 3, 2013, the OHMVR Division approved the Eastern Kern County Acquisition project and adopted the acquisition Environmental Impact report (EIR). The Final EIR and associated documents can be reviewed at the project website:  
[http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=27211](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27211)

In accordance with the EIR, OHMVR Division and San Andreas District staff have begun management measures for the Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA lands.

### ***Law Enforcement Patrol***

San Andreas District State Park Peace Officers from Hungry Valley SVRA have been conducting regular law enforcement patrols 2 - 3 times weekly at Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA lands. Law Enforcement patrols are planned to expand in October coinciding with the busier visitation season.

***Rockhounding***

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5001.65, in March 2015 California State Parks approved rockhounding on the Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA lands. Rockhounding is the recreational gathering of rock and mineral specimens. No commercial collection is allowed.

***Livestock Grazing***

San Andreas District staff is coordinating with the BLM livestock grazing permittee. A grazing plan and lease is being developed consistent with the EIR and grazing policies on neighboring BLM lands. On August 25, an on-site meeting between OHMVR Division staff, San Andreas District staff, and the grazing permittee was held on the SVRA lands.

***Memorandum of Understanding***

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been developed by San Andreas District and the BLM Ridgecrest Field Office to coordinate efforts and maximize state and federal land management resources in the area of the Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA lands. The MOU is in the signature phase.

***Phase II Acquisition – Kelso Valley Parcels***

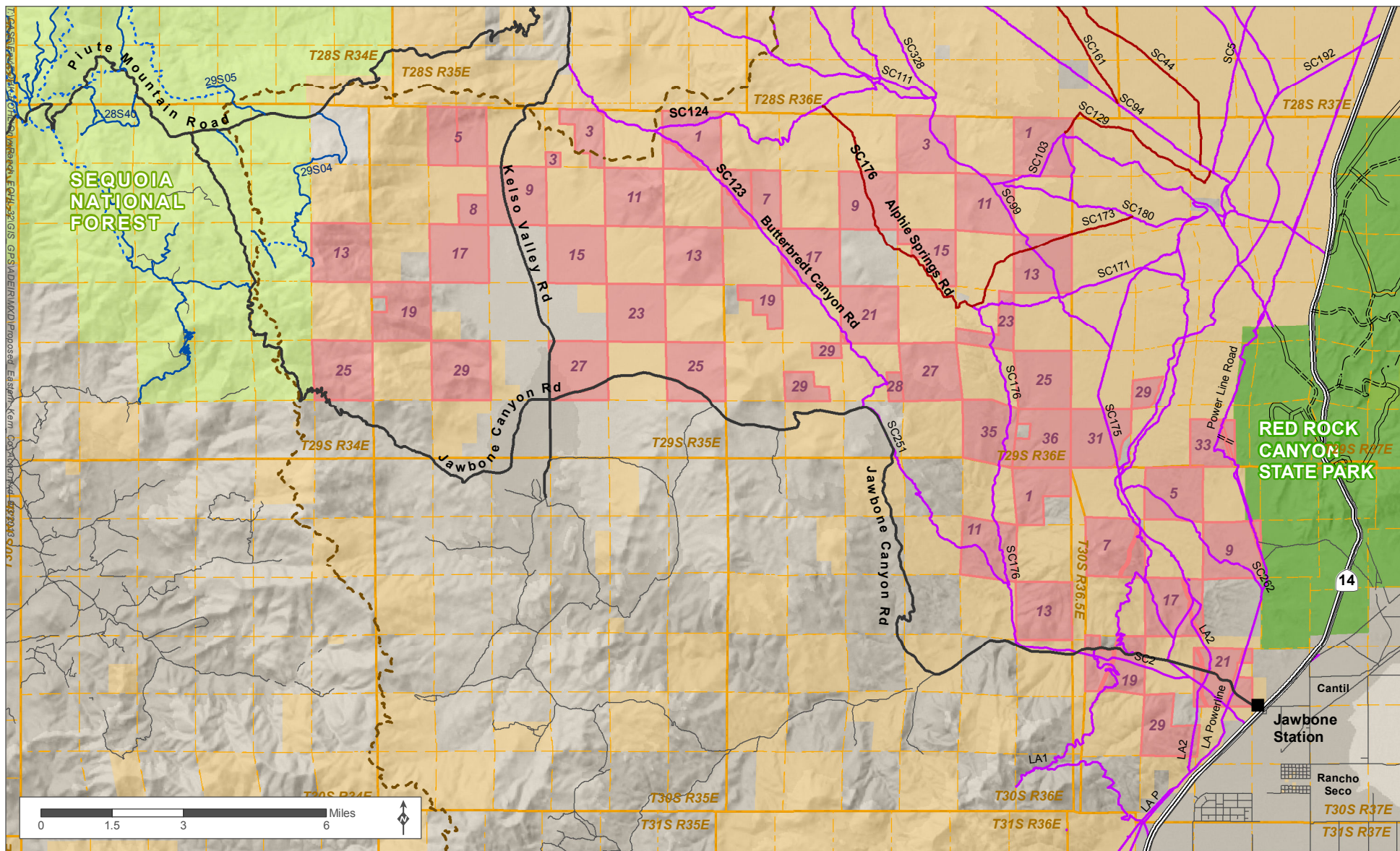
The OHMVR Division is proceeding with the acquisition of three additional Onyx Ranch parcels near the intersection of Jawbone Canyon Road and Kelso Valley Road. These Kelso Valley parcels were identified as a potential future acquisition in the EIR. The Kelso Valley parcels were approved for Site Selection by California's Public Works Board on August 17, 2015. The Site Selection approval is step one of a two-step approval process. The acquisition is expected to be completed by December 2015.

**Commission Action**

For information only

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch parcel map



Source: Bureau of Land Management, CalTrans, TRA, Kern County, California Department of Parks and Recreation

- Visitor Center
- == State Route
- Local Roads
- Other Local Roads

- Proposed Parcel Acquisition (Labeled by Section Number)
- Public Land Survey Sections (with Township and Range)
- Bureau of Land Management

- National Forest System Motorized Vehicle Trails
- National Forest System Roads
- BLM Designated Routes:**
- ATV & MC Routes
- 4 Wheel Drive Routes

- Red Rock Canyon State Park Routes**
- Dirt Road (Primary)
- === 4-WD Recommended
- 4-WD



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Proposed Eastern Kern County Acquisition